Application of WONG, D.MH.
Serial No.   10/764,180
Filed on   Jan. 23, 2004

Examiner: NGUYEN, C.L.T.
Group Art Unit No.   2172
Reply to OA of: Feb. 9, 2007

IN THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.113, 1.114, please amend the claims as shown below. This Listing of the Claims replaces all previous versions and listings thereof.

1. (Currently Amended)   A machine-implemented method for managing access to data, the method comprising the steps of:

registering with a database server a <u>user defined</u> policy function ~~supplied by a user~~ <u>to</u>

<u>associate with at least two columns of two tables</u>;

<u>wherein registering causes said database server to generate database metadata that associates said</u>

<u>policy function with said at least two columns in at least two tables;</u>

<u>based on the metadata,</u> said database server detecting that a <u>query references said</u> ~~database~~

~~command requires access to columns in~~ at least two <u>columns</u> ~~tables~~; and

in response to the step of detecting:

said database server invoking ~~of~~ said policy function to generate a condition expression

returned by the policy function; and

rewriting said <u>query</u> ~~database command~~ by creating a modified <u>query</u> ~~database command~~

to incorporate said condition expression, based on the database <u>query</u> ~~command~~.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the policy function is not invoked by detecting that a database command requires access to a subset of tables of the at least two tables, wherein the subset of tables includes at least one table.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting includes detecting that metadata defines the columns as a combination of columns to which access is controlled.

8. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of registering a policy function with a policy.

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9. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 8, wherein the policy includes metadata identifying the columns.

10. (Currently Amended)   A machine-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions, which when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform a method comprising the steps of:

registering with a database server a <u>user defined</u> policy function ~~supplied by a user~~ to associate
    with at least two columns of two tables;

<u>wherein registering causes said database server to generate database metadata that associates said</u>
    <u>policy function with said at least two columns in at least two tables;</u>

<u>based on the metadata,</u> said database server detecting that a <u>query references</u> ~~database command~~
    ~~requires access to columns in~~ at least two <u>columns</u> ~~tables~~; and

in response to the step of detecting:

    said database server invoking ~~of~~ said policy to a generate of a condition expression returned
        by the policy function; and

    rewriting said <u>query</u> ~~database command~~ by creating a modified <u>query</u> ~~database command~~
        to incorporate said condition expression, based on the database <u>query</u> ~~command~~.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented)   The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the policy function is not invoked by detecting that a database command requires access to a subset of tables of the at least two tables, wherein the subset of tables includes at least one table.

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented)   The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the detecting includes detecting that metadata defines the columns as a combination of columns to which access is controlled.

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17. (Previously Presented)   The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises the step of registering a policy function with a policy.

18. (Previously Presented)   The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein the policy includes metadata identifying the columns.